

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0002] In a pneumatic tire, a groove extending in the tire circumferential direction is formed in a tread surface to ensure drainage in the rain and the like. In order to improve drainage of such a pneumatic tire and prevent occurrence of hydroplaning, various ~~proposes~~proposals have hitherto been made in terms of arrangement of grooves in the tread surface and the like. In those ~~proposes~~proposals, there is a pneumatic tire in which a curved inclined groove which is formed in the tread surface is provided with a protruded rim extending in the groove longitudinal direction in the bottom of the groove to rectify water having flowed into the groove and thus improve the drainage (for example, see the Japanese Patent Laid-Open publication No. 2000-318411).

Please replace paragraph [0025] on page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0025] Each of these test tires was mounted on a domestically-produced car of 2.0 ~~litter~~liter displacement and subjected to a hydroplaning test in straight running. In this hydroplaning test in straight running, the car was driven on a straight road provided with a pool having a water depth of 10 mm. The speed at which the car entered that pool was gradually increased, and the speed when hydroplaning occurred

was measured. The evaluation results were shown in Table 1 by indices with the measured speed of Conventional Example being 100. Larger indices mean that the capability of preventing hydroplaning is more excellent.